Probe shows Wilson man fell on knife

No charges expected in death of suspect

By JERRY ALLEGOOD
Staff Writer

KENLY — No charges are expected in connection with the stabbing death of a Wilson man who was caught by two men after a motel robbery, Wilson County Sheriff Wayne V. Gay said Monday.

Gay said a preliminary investigation into a robbery at the Pine View Motel Friday night indicated that a robbery suspect, John Edward Thompson, of 500 Dendy Street, had fallen on his knife during a struggle with two men assisting the motel owner in a search for the robber. He said an autopsy supported the contention by the two men that the stabbing had been unintentional.

"I don't see any charges forthcoming, but we're not through with the investigation," Gay said. "I don't anticipate any [charges]."

Harold T. Renfrow and Mark Six, Renfrow's nephew, told investigators that Thompson had run in front of their car on U.S. Highway 301 a short distance from the motel. The two told police that the owner of the Pine View Motel, Ricky David Godwin, had asked them to go looking for a man who had robbed the motel.

Renfrow said that when he stopped the car and asked Thompson about the robbery, Thompson attacked him with a knife.

Gay said he did not consider the incident a vigilante action because Renfrow and Six carried guns and could have shot Thompson if they had intended to kill him. He said private individuals

See PROBE, page 2C

The Associated Press

Mourning the lost

An Air Force officer comforts a woman at Pope Air Force Base after a memorial service for the four airmen who died last Wednesday when their C-130 cargo plane crashed at Fort Bragg. Relatives and comrades of the victims attended the service Monday. Story, page 2C.

Permit to allow Chatham coal tests suspended

By WILLIE DRYE
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — A federal permit that would have allowed a company to begin exploratory coal mining in Chatham County has been suspended, putting the project on hold, an official with the U.S. Department of the Interior said Monday.

Chatham Coal Co. had received the go-ahead last month to mine 2,000 tons of coal, with work possibly starting as early as this summer.

Don W. Willen, an acting assistant chief of the Division of Tennessee Permitting whose office issued the permit, said he did not know how long the company would be prohibited from operating.

Willen said the permit was suspended because a group of citizens who feared the project could damage nearby water supplies filed a lawsuit against Chatham Coal. "The lawsuit caused us to take another look," he said in a telephone interview.

The permit, which would have been good for a year, was suspended so more information on the operation could be gathered, Willen said. He said he could not specify what information would be needed for the permit to be restored. "We're reviewing that now," he said.

The company's president, James A. Morgan, said the action would not cause him to shelve his plans to mine coal in Chatham. He also said he would carry his fight "to the Supreme Court, if necessary."

"We have not broken any laws," Morgan said Monday by telephone from his attorney's office in Sanford. "We were not cited for breaking any laws."

Willen said the suit, filed in early June in Wake Superior Court, brought up "a point of law" that influenced the decision to suspend the permit. "I can't comment [on that] since it's under litigation," he said.

County commissioner Gus P. Murchison Jr. said some members of the group that filed the suit — which included the county commissioners — were happy to learn of the suspension. But Murchison was reserved in his reaction.

"You know you're never glad to stop somebody from doing something they believe in," he said.

Morgan said he learned the permit had been suspended in a letter Monday.

The company already had cleared a small plot in Gulf, an unincorporated community in southern Chatham County. Coal taken from the tract — which was a little larger than a football field — would have been used for testing the coal's quality.

Chatham Coal would have had to obtain another permit to resume operations after the testing was completed. Morgan had intended eventually to expand the first phase of the mining operation to produce 50,000 to 70,000 tons of coal each year from a 25-acre site.

"Environmentally, I don't think [the exploratory mine] was a bad

See PERMIT, page 2C

Most N.C. firms miss federal hazardous waste deadline

By KARLA JENNINGS
Staff Writer

More than 90 percent of North Carolina companies and others dealing with hazardous chemicals have missed a federal deadline for reporting that they use such materials — leaving them open to stiff fines, state and federal officials said Monday.

Many companies missed the May 17 deadline because they had not heard about it or did not think it applied to them, officials said.

"We are getting calls daily from people, saying they just discovered that they will be under the federal act," said Vance E. Kee, the assistant director of the N.C. Division of Emergency Management. "I've had some complaints about not knowing about it until after the deadline."

The N.C. Emergency Response Commission has said that only 800 of the estimated 11,000 users of hazardous chemicals have reported their usage as required by a new federal law. The law is part of emergency response guidelines for hazardous chemical spills established by the federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SARA, adopted in October, requires companies handling at least two of 406 EPA-listed hazardous chemicals to notify the state by May 17. By September 17, the facilities must designate someone to coordinate emergency procedures with local officials in the event of chemical spills. By October 17, users must submit a list of their chemicals and the quantities to local public safety officials. Later, they must submit detailed information on those chemicals.

The state's emergency response commission, which administers the law along with the Emergency Management Division, was not established until April and so had little time to publicize the issue before the deadline hit, said Kee.

See MOST, page 2C

N.C. woman is admitted to Rotary

By BILL GRAVES
Staff Writer

Margaret E. Knox has attended the meetings of the Research Triangle Park Rotary Club ever since its founding two decades ago, and the club's male members have come to think of her as an unofficial Rotarian.

They made it official Monday by inducting Mrs. Knox as the first female member of their service club — and possibly of any North Carolina Rotary club.

"This is a significant day in the life of the Rotary," said M. Wade Jackson of Ahoskie, governor of the Rotary district encompassing the northeast quadrant of the state. "The time has come to open the doors of the Rotary to all who are qualified."

Jackson made Mrs. Knox, 67, the first woman member in his Rotary district during a brief ceremony at a luncheon meeting in the Sheraton Imperial Hotel near Research Triangle Park. Mrs. Knox, executive editor of

Staff photo by John Rottet

Margaret Knox, at her Rotary induction ceremony, says she is honored to be the N.C. forerunner

The Leader, a weekly newspaper based in the park, had covered the club's meetings as a reporter ever since it was chartered in 1967.

Mrs. Knox said in an interview that her membership was "just the forerunner of many women joining the Rotary.

"When they asked me to join, I said it would be an honor, but that I would want to go through the same procedure as any member," Mrs. Knox said. "I said if I was blacklisted, I would be disappointed, but I would still cover them."

Rotary's sex barrier was toppled May 4 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a California case that states could force the all-male clubs to admit women. The ruling applied to California and other states with laws ban-

See N.C., page 2C

Cock-a-doodle boo: Roosters spur suit

By LIZ CLARKE
Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — John Davis thinks nothing could be finer than waking up to the sounds of roosters crowing.

But his neighbors in Hillsborough's historic district disagree. And their squawking about the racket they say Davis' two roosters make each morning prompted local officials on March 9 to ban roosters from town limits.

Davis, a 31-year-old mechanic and self-described "down-to-earth old country boy," has refused to get rid of his roosters, which he claims are pets. So the town has filed suit.

According to the complaint filed last week in Orange County District Court, Hillsborough Police Chief Larry C. Biggs said that Davis had threatened to kill anyone who tried to take his roosters away. Davis claimed he had been misquoted.

"I didn't tell them I'd kill somebody," Davis said Monday, as he worked on a truck in the back yard of the King Street home he shares with his mother. "I did say I'd shoot the first person that lays a hand on them, though. The way they have it, I'm some kind of murderer. But I'm not hard to get along with."

Mayor Frank H. Sheffield said the town board resorted to an all-out ban on roosters because the Orange County animal control ordinance doesn't have any teeth — at least regarding roosters.

"The county ordinance does not include crowing as one of the reasons you can ban an animal,"

See TOWN, page 2C

Beg your pardon

An article in The News and Observer Monday incorrectly identified Les Schobert as the director of the N.C. Zoological Park. Schobert is the zoo's general curator.

'Trotting Jim' outran horses to speed the mail on its way

Dennis Rogers

NEWPORT — This is the Legend of Trotting Jim, the man who thought he was a horse.

Trotting Jim was not his real name, of course. He was Louis Wiggins, a Lenoir County man who moved to Carteret County after the Civil War and became a postman.

He got his colorful name because he ran his entire rural mail route, a lengthy route that ran from Newport to Swansboro to Beaufort and then back home to Newport. Those were the olden days before the turn of the century, and Trotting Jim ran because a mere horse couldn't have made it through the woods, over the fields and across the creeks, in good weather and bad.

It was more than his amazing ability to run that got him the name of Trotting Jim. Some say Jim actually thought he was a horse because he sure acted like one sometimes. He was known to bray and buck before he started his route and even to harness himself to a small mail-wagon when there was more than he could carry on his strong back. The part about whipping himself with a crop might be an exaggeration.

He probably knew he wasn't really a horse but he had great fun pretending to be one. The legend goes that on Sundays, after running with the mail all week, Jim would harness himself to the family buggy and take his wife and six children for a ride. One time, they say, he even bolted and ran away, leaving his wife and children in the dust. Neither history nor legend recalls what Mrs. Trotting Jim had to say when he got home, but you probably wouldn't have wanted to be there.

Country folks are polite, so it was natural that Jim would be invited to share meals with the folks he served on his route. Jim was a fun-loving fellow, and on one occasion he caused a woman to become practically hysterical when he ran into the front yard, snorting and braying like a horse, and then fell into the yard and rolled in the dust. They say the woman ran screaming from her kitchen.

He could really run, long and fast. They tell the tale in these parts that one day Jim and his family took a flock of sheep to New Bern. Jim put his family on the train back to Newport, waved goodbye as the train pulled out and then took off running for home. They say he met them at the Newport station when the train arrived.

But the greatest Trotting Jim story of all involved a traveling salesman who had a fine team of horses, the four-legged kind.

Trotting Jim met the salesman at the post office in Swansboro. The salesman was proud of his team and, as proud men will do, fell to bragging about how strong and fast they were. One thing led to another, and when Jim heard the man say he was heading to Newport, Jim bet him that he could outrun his fine team of horses. The bet was five dollars and the finish line would be the Newport post office.

The salesman thought it was all very funny, and when he pulled into the Newport post office and did not see Jim there, he said, smiling all the while: "Say, has anybody here seen a crazy man who thinks he can outrun a horse?"

"Yup," he was told, "Jim's been here. He waited for you about 30 minutes but he said he had to move on to Beaufort." The salesman left the five dollars for Jim.

Jim carried the mail, running barefoot, for 20 years, but then more and better trains came along and they didn't need a man of his particular skill anymore. But he was always there when you needed him. He'd run for the doctor and be back before the doctor arrived.

Some people thought Trotting Jim was a crazy man, and some people were afraid of him. They would back off when he came running into town, snorting and acting like a horse. But they respected him for his ability with real horses. They say he had a way with them and, some say, he could even talk to them in a language they could understand.

No one knows how much of this is true, of course. Jim died many years ago at the age of 75, and the legends about him have grown over the years. But one thing is certain, Trotting Jim could haul the mail.

Thanks to Betty and Garland Whitaker of Newport for passing on the legend of Trotting Jim. They're members of the Carteret Writers Club, and Trotting Jim's tale is included in a fine little book the group has released recently called "Carteret Crosscurrents." It is available in the Carteret County area.

Is the story true, you ask?

Here is Betty and Garland's answer: "From this vantage point it may be impossible to separate the facts from the legend of Trotting Jim. But just about everybody knew about him and that's what makes Trotting Jim real."

That's good enough for me.

Briefly
North Carolina

Wilmington mayor still in serious condition

For The News and Observer

Wilmington Mayor Michael "Kip" Oppegaard, who suffered a heart attack Saturday night while running to help victims after a pier collapsed, remained in serious condition late Monday in the coronary care unit of New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington.

Meanwhile, Topsail Beach officials have not determined what caused the collapse of a piling on the Southside Pier, owned by Oppegaard, who was setting off Fourth of July fireworks for a crowd of hundreds. When the piling broke, a 20-foot section of the pier fell inward, and more than two dozen people were tossed into the water. Eleven people were injured, none seriously.

Patient who received heart transplant dies

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) — Connie Lou Christy, who two months ago became the third heart transplant patient at Baptist Hospital, has died.

Mrs. Christy, 29, died Saturday after her body rejected the new heart, said her cardiologist, Dr. Barry Hackshaw. "She was home about six weeks and really was doing quite well," Hackshaw said. "She was driving her car. ... That's part of the unpredictability of how delicate these things are."

Fairmont man hit by car while lying in the road

For The News and Observer

A Fairmont man was killed early Sunday after he apparently lay down in a rural road and was struck by a car.

A spokesman for the Fairmont Police Department said Gilbert Edward Smith, 32, was killed about 2 a.m. Sunday on State Road 2433 in Fairmont. He was struck once by a passing car and was dead when officers arrived. No charges have been filed, the spokesman said.

Bulldog bites woman at N.C. playground

HIGH POINT (AP) — A pit bulldog bit a High Point woman on the leg after she tried to quiet a group of people who were drinking and arguing at a playground.

Sandra Jean Morgan, 18, was taken to High Point Regional Hospital where she was treated and released. The dog's owner, Eddie Sheldon, 27, told police the dog bit Ms. Morgan, but he said she had kicked the dog first. Ms. Morgan denied she touched the dog.

"I wasn't even looking that dog's way, and it bit me," she said Monday. Before the incident, Ms. Morgan said she had asked Sheldon to tie his dog. But he refused, saying the dog would not bite her.

Mourners keep memories of 4 airmen aloft

POPE AIR FORCE BASE (AP) — Relatives and comrades of four servicemen killed last week in a fiery airplane crash mourned the victims in hymns, prayers and eulogies Monday, vowing to honor them by pressing ahead with their mission.

"While we hope and pray that mishaps like that ... never occur, we also know that as long as we are in the business of defending this nation, they will occur," Brig. Gen. John F. Sievertson of McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey said at a memorial service.

"There will be sudden and unexpected death," Sievertson said in comparing the incident to the deaths of Navy seamen aboard the U.S.S. Stark and of Marines in Lebanon. "There will be sorrows, and there will be tears. But they are part of the price we must pay to keep this nation strong and ... free."

About 500 people packed a theater at Pope Air Force Base for the 30-minute service honoring the crewmen, who died Wednesday when a C-130 cargo plane on a tank-dropping maneuver hit the ground, skidded into a wooded area and burst into flames.

Thousands of horrified spectators, including relatives of the victims, witnessed the tragic ending of a routine training mission.

A service will be held today at nearby Fort Bragg for an Army soldier killed on the ground. The plane's two other crewmen were injured seriously.

A board of officers from other military installations is investigating the cause of the crash, said Capt. Brian Irving, spokesman for Pope Air Force Base. He said that the probe would take several months and that the results probably would not be made public.

"We've found in the past that the fact that we've been able to keep the cause of accidents privileged information has enabled us to really dig and find the cause ... so we won't make the same mistakes again," Irving said.

Reporters were not allowed to watch the service inside the darkened theater. Loudspeakers were set up outside.

The theater stage was decked with floral arrangements and four folded U.S. flags, a candle behind each.

Relatives of the victims were driven to the service in buses and escorted inside. After the service ended with the playing of taps, mourners stood outside as three C-130s thundered overhead in the traditional "missing man" maneuver, in which one plane veers away from a V-formation to symbolize a downed aircraft.

Army Capt. Greg Hiebert and his wife, Claudia, sang "On Eagle's Wings" to a guitar accompaniment. The mourners sang "Amazing Grace" and the Air Force hymn, "Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly."

A chaplain, Maj. John D. Vail, read from Isaiah. Col. Edward N. Brya, commander of the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing, delivered the eulogy.

"Each of these good men possessed those key elements so necessary for service to their country: patriotism, dedication, courage, discipline and self-confidence," Brya said.

"We continue to train and prepare ourselves to be the very best," he added. "We will not retreat or withdraw from our responsibility. We will try even harder. We will seek perfection and to honor those who have gone before us, to honor Gary, John, Tim and Glen."

The crewmen who died were Capt. Gary M. Bardo Jr., 31, the pilot, of Bloomsburg, Pa.; 1st Lt. John B. Keiser III, 28, the navigator, of Sanford and Plattsburg Air Force Base near Clinton, N.Y.; Technical Sgt. Timothy A. Martar, 32, of Mansura, La.; and Airman 1st Class Albert G. Dunse, 23, of Savannah, Ga.

The Army soldier killed on the ground was Sgt. Douglas L. Hunter, 25, of Charlotte, Tenn. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor Regiment at Fort Bragg.

The airmen were assigned to the 40th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 317th Tactical Airlift Wing, at Pope Air Force Base.

Staff photo by Gary Allen

Topping tobacco

John Ray of Pilot in Franklin County breaks the flowers off his tobacco plants to enhance the growth of the plants. The process, called topping, also directs growth to the tobacco leaves, which were "topped" Monday afternoon at Ray's field in Pilot.

Probe shows suspect fell on his own knife

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could attempt to track someone to help law enforcement agencies, but he advised against trying to apprehend a robber.

"Renfrow is extremely lucky he was not the one that was killed," Gay said.

Ernest Josephs, an assistant district attorney and a Wilson County prosecutor, declined to comment on the case and said only that the investigation was continuing.

Dr. Page Hudson, a pathologist with the state medical examiner's regional office in Greenville, said Monday an autopsy determined that Thompson, 30, had died of a single stab wound to the heart. Hudson, who conducted the autopsy, said it was "theoretically possible" that the fatal wound was self-inflicted.

"There's nothing about the wound that would be incompatible with falling on a knife in a struggle," he said in a telephone interview.

Hudson said Thompson's body had scratches but no other serious wounds. Additional tests will be conducted to determine whether alcohol or drugs were in the body, he said.

According to investigators, Thompson and his brother, who was not identified, checked into the motel about 15 miles south of Wilson at about 10:45 p.m. Friday. A few minutes later, Thompson returned to the motel office, threatened motel manager Albert Bier with a knife as he was counting the day's receipts, grabbed some money and ran out the door, investigators said.

The sheriff said Thompson's brother apparently did not participate in the robbery and would not be charged.

Bier, manager of the ten-unit motel for about 18 months, said Thompson had registered and listed his name, street address, and vehicle license number before the robbery. He had also paid $20 in advance for a room adjacent to the manager's office, Bier said.

Historic Hillsborough church damaged by fire

By ANDY BRACK
For The News and Observer

CHAPEL HILL — Fire burned part of the historic Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Monday, but authorities were able to save its 173-year-old sanctuary, which is on a site where North Carolina statesmen decided not to ratify the U.S. Constitution nearly 200 years ago.

Up to $300,000 damage was done when flames ripped through the church's education building, built in the mid-1940s, said the Rev. Richard E. Hildebrandt.

However, the older portions of the Tryon Street church were damaged only slightly. While charred debris filled the education building Monday afternoon, Gordon said the sanctuary and an adjoining fellowship hall had received only smoke and heat damage. "The damage to the sanctuary is cosmetic," he said.

Hillsborough Fire Chief Mark L. Gordon said authorities had not been able to determine what caused the blaze, which he said started in the pastor's study.

About 40 firefighters from three departments were called to the fire about 4 a.m. Capt. Alois Callemyn, of the Hillsborough Volunteer Fire Department, credited a good response time and the use of a "deck gun" — which he said pumped about 1,000 gallons of water in less than two minutes — for preventing more damage.

"The deck gun put enough water in there to darken down the fire while we were able to prepare to make an internal attack," he said.

Firefighters doused the flames in about 20 minutes but spent another three hours trying to rid the church of smoke, Gordon said.

Hildebrandt said the sanctuary was built in 1814 and became a Presbyterian church in 1816. It was constructed on the site of St. Matthews Anglican Church, which was destroyed in a fire in 1793, he said.

Local historian Clarence D. Jones said the N.C. Constitutional Convention met at St. Matthews in the summer of 1788, rejecting approval of the U.S. Constitution. It was not until November of the following year, in Fayetteville, that the document was ratified.

Jones, a member of the Hillsborough Historical Society, said the St. Matthews building also had been used for state legislative sessions and a 1775 meeting of the Continental Congress.

Hildebrandt said the 170-member congregation would not be able to meet at the sanctuary Sunday. He said church officials had yet to decide where to hold services while repairs are being done.

Permit to allow Chatham coal tests suspended

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risk because you're only dealing with six acres in a 950-square-mile watershed," Willen said. "That's pretty minimal."

Morgan said the water discharged from his mining operation would have been cleaner than water in the nearby Deep River.

The company had planned to use strip mining to extract the coal, Morgan said. The company would have restored the land to a better condition than it was before mining started, he said.

John L. Holley, a regional engineer with the state Land Resources Division, said sedimentation control plans submitted by Chatham Coal called for covering the mining area with topsoil and re-planting grass and trees. The state approved the plans in April; however, federal approval was necessary for work to begin. State approval "doesn't make any judgment on the operation," Holley said.

Willen said he could not predict whether Chatham Coal would be allowed to resume its plans. "There could be appeals made on both sides," he said.

Morgan said he would seek more legal advice, but would not be more specific about his plans. "A football coach never tells his plays ahead of time," he said.

Town sues man over roosters

Continued from page 1C

Sheffield said in a telephone interview Monday. "It refers to barking and howling — but not crowing."

While neighbors who live near Davis complained repeatedly to town officials about the noise, none reached Monday would comment about the squabble.

Hillsborough Town Board member Horace H. Johnson said it was because they were afraid. "The man has intimidated some of the neighbors," Johnson said. One woman who complained publicly about the noise woke up a few days later to find her bird feeder had been shot, Johnson said.

Davis said he hasn't had any trouble with his with neighbors. He claims that all the complaints about his roosters have come only from some neighbors who recently moved to Hillsborough from the North.

"It's stupid to let two people from New York City come down and change all the laws of the town," Davis said. "Roosters don't bother nobody."

Davis said his dog Smokey, part collie and part German shepherd, is louder than the two roosters. Moreover, he argues that most folks in the neighborhood like his pets.

"One neighbor told me she had heard them one morning, but she said she liked the sound and just rolled over and went back to sleep," Davis said.

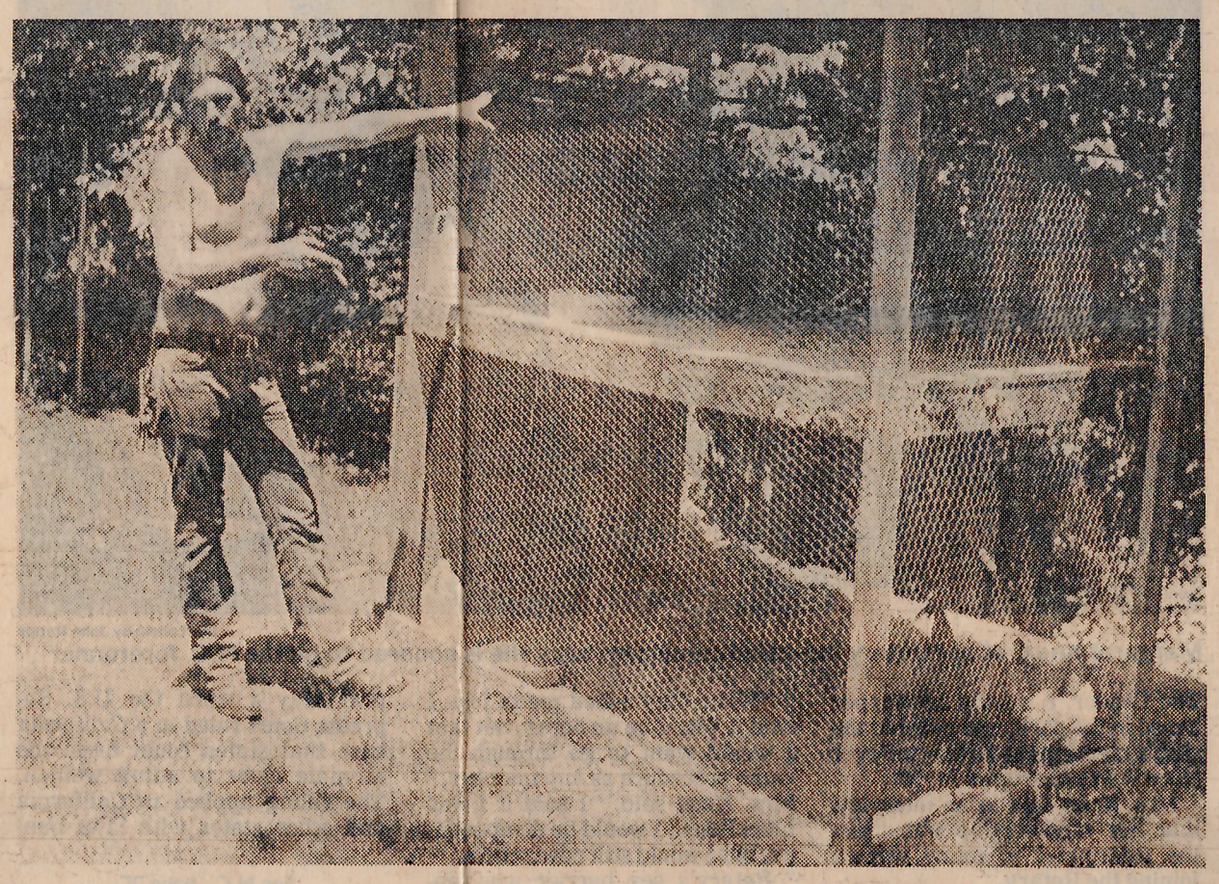
He said he keeps roosters and several chickens as pets. He gives some neighbors eggs; others use the droppings for fertilizer, Davis said.

Davis said he intends to seek legal advice before deciding whether to comply with the order to remove the roosters.

"It's not the chickens," he said. "I don't care that much about the chickens. It's the principle of the thing."

Nevertheless, Davis said he didn't understand why everyone's feathers were so ruffled. The sound of his roosters is a pleasant one, he said.

"It sounds country," Davis said. "I wouldn't trade it for nothing — getting up, fixing a cup of coffee and listening to the rooster crowing."



Staff photo by Jim Stratakos

John Davis likes the sounds made by his roosters, which are kept in this coop

N.C. woman is admitted to Rotary

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ning sex discrimination by business establishments.

That ruling did not apply to North Carolina. But on June 2, the board of Rotary International gave it a nationwide application by declaring that it would no longer revoke the charters of U.S. clubs that admitted females.

Jackson said he was not aware of any other woman having been admitted to any Rotary Club within North Carolina's other three districts. He predicted more women would follow Mrs. Knox as membership slots open in the traditionally male service club.

"I don't see an onslaught" of female members coming, Jackson said in an interview. "I see clubs looking to this in the spirit of the Rotary."

E.H. Alexander of Red Springs, governor of the Rotary district in southeastern North Carolina, predicted women soon would be nominated to clubs in his district.

"I'm sure there are those who like the status quo," Alexander said, "but if we don't change and progress, we would die." North Carolina's two other Rotary district governors could not be reached for comment.

Susan J. Bender, a spokesman for Rotary International headquarters in Evanston, Ill., said in a telephone interview that most states had at least one Rotary Club that had admitted a female member since May 4. But she said she knew of none in the southeast.

Mrs. Knox founded The Leader in 1966 and, as a reporter, began attending the Research Triangle Park Rotary's meetings the following year.

"She is like one of the charter members, so that is one reason it is great to have her," said member Alfred J. Thorn, general manager of Village Printing Company in Chapel Hill, a unit of the Village Companies, which now owns The Leader.

Most N.C. firms miss waste deadline

Continued from page 1C

SARA applies to many organizations that did not previously come under federal hazardous chemical guidelines, such as farms using large amounts of pesticides and retail stores.

Under SARA, the EPA can impose a fines of $25,000 a day for each day users affected by the law fail to report their hazardous chemicals. Users failing to report a hazardous chemical spill can be fined $25,000 a day for the first offense and $75,000 a day for the second offense.

However, because of low publicity and deadlines that one spokesman called "unrealistic," the EPA is unlikely to impose fines anytime soon.

"Frankly, the media haven't carried the stories the way we hoped they would," said Henry Hudson of the Emergency Response Control Section at the EPA's regional office in Atlanta.

"We're not interested in being just punishers for the sake of that," Hudson said by telephone, "and [we] believe at this point the lack of compliance is failure by people to realize that they should have done it."

One reason the public does not know about the law, Kee said, is that state agencies have not had enough money to publicize it, instead hoping that companies would learn about the new law from the Federal Register or trade journals.

Kee expressed frustration with Congress's failure to allocate money for implementing the law, adding that his division has requested $755,000 for such purposes from the state.

"It's a very enviable position to be in, where you can cause somebody to carry out your program, but don't give them any money," he said.

Cab drivers seek OK to distribute AIDS data

NEW YORK (AP) — The Independent Taxi Owners Council says it wants to distribute literature about AIDS to passengers.

Howard Fogel, ITOC president, said the group of 5,000 members wanted permission from the Taxi and Limousine Commission to give out educational leaflets prepared by the Department of Health.